



# Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail *Progress Report* Fall 2015



## Administrator's Corner

Greetings,

Happy autumn to everyone! The unforgettable autumn color along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is truly awe-inspiring. It is the most beautiful place on earth to many of us. There truly is something different to see and enjoy around every corner with the gorgeous fall foliage.

Autumn on the Trail and [Auto Tour Route](#) certainly requires that you bring your camera with you. Taking in the amazing natural beauty of the seasonal changes and the colors that come with it is second to none. The NPNHT offers visitor a wide range of native foliage to view, from the larch in the mountains to cottonwood and aspen and willows and sumac along rivers and streams. The NPNHT offers a vast array of activities from fall hiking, biking, fishing, and riding ATVs on the rugged roads of the Auto Tour route.

Fall is also elk rutting season, when males are showing their antlers and calling out for mates. Many hunters also migrate to the trail in the fall for the big hunt. Visitors can look for evidence of where these magnificent creatures have rubbed their antlers on trees along the Trail to help rid them of the velvet (a hairy skin covering).

The never ending days of fall offer motorcyclists on the [Auto Tour Route](#) a fresh new way to visit some unique and interesting stops. The NPNHT Auto Tour takes you through many beautiful communities, weaves around lakes, across rivers, through the farmland flats, and up rolling hills that will surely take your breath away.

Visiting the Trail and Auto Tour route is easy; it's leaving that's difficult! Enjoy your travel experiences and don't forget your camera.

Inside this report you will find a few brief highlights of what we are up to. I feel inspired and reinvigorated! Our team works to collect, show, and preserve the trail history. We serve as a resource for people inquiring about the Trail, educating and hosting historical related events, and continuously working to keep the Trail history alive.

Enjoy this beautiful season along the NPNHT.



Sandra Broncheau-McFarland

Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

*Sandra Broncheau-McFarland,*  
Administrator, NPNHT



## Fire Visits the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail in Central Idaho

The 180 wildfires that burned on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests this past summer were a result of lightning storms on August 9-11, reminding us that Mother Nature continues to play a major role in forest ecosystems. The total acreage of federal lands burned on the Forests from that lightning event reached more than 182,000 acres.

Fire suppression containment efforts by firefighters have allowed the mobilization of BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) teams and recovery efforts are already underway in some areas.

Wetting rains in early and mid-September moderated fire behavior across the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, but did not provide the precipitation needed to be considered season ending events. More recent weather has brought the season to an end.

Heavy autumn rain may at times result in rock and mudslides along the steep terrain of U.S. Highway 12 and areas in the vicinity of recent burn scars. **Travelers should be alert to debris on the road.**

A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered 80-acre parcel witnessed a significant burning event as part of the Clearwater Complex Fire. The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails pass through this parcel in a north-south orientation. The majority of trees across this area have been killed. Emergency stabilization actions will be developed to protect the trail tread as part of the BAER effort. The information below provides a context of the trail condition previous to the fire and several preliminary photographs of how the trail appears post fire (*photos right*).

National Historic Trail tread is evident the full length of the BLM administered parcel. This trail has been GPSed with mixed results because of the past tree canopy. In the past there were issues with trees blowing over and the roots upending and in some cases damaging the trail tread. There has also been, illegal cutting of firewood in this area.

Many forests depend on periodic fires to maintain healthy ecosystems. In these fire adapted areas, fire promotes plant diversity and burns away accumulations of live and dead plant material such as pine needles, leaves, branches, and smaller understory trees.



Images Courtesy of the BLM

### Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan Update

The first two Chapters of the Plan have been drafted for internal review. There will be review at both the Regional Office and Washington Office levels internally before any reviews may happen with cooperating agencies. The state of Wyoming and Park County Commission, Wyoming, are the first two agencies to officially request, in writing, cooperators status for the Comprehensive Plan and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. All agencies requesting cooperators status must address their request to with a courtesy-copy to Julie Molzahn, NPNHT Comprehensive Plan Coordinator, and Peter Zimmerman, Regional NEPA Coordinator:

Leanne Marten, Regional Forester  
USDA, Forest Service Northern Region  
26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804

The Regional Spatial Data Coordinator is working on developing the Geographic Information System (GIS) proposed centerline for the Trail, and currently has all Forest Service lands mapped and is now working on other federal agency lands.

On June 16 and 17, Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator, NPNHT, and Julie Molzahn, Comprehensive Plan Coordinator, traveled to Boise, ID, to meet with officials from the State of Idaho. They met with seven state agencies and the Governor's Office to introduce them to both the Comprehensive Plan and the Trail's Right of Way designation process. The meetings went well and identified additional work both the state agencies and Trail staff need to complete in the near future (*photo above*).

On August 24, Julie completed a phone conference with seven Wyoming state agencies and the Governor's Office along with a Park County Commissioner. This was an introduction to the Comprehensive Plan and Trail's Right of Way designation using the Trail's PowerPoints that can be found on our website. This was followed up with a field visit to Park County, Wyoming, on October 20 at the invitation of the Park County Commissioners.

The NPNHT Staff are still asking for comments on the Trail's Proposed Objectives and Practices which are found on the [website](#). These are required elements under the National Trails System Act for all Comprehensive Plans. The 1990 Comprehensive Plan did not have these identified so this is a major part of the reason for the Plan's revision. We are asking to have your first set of comments in by March 31, 2016. These will be used to edit, update, add to or revise the proposed Objectives and Practices to be used in the draft Comprehensive Plan and NEPA document. The next public meetings and request for comments will be after the draft is released.



U.S. Forest Service Photo



# Forest Service Releases Interactive Tribal Connections Map Providing Historical and Current Tribal Lands in Relation to National Forests and Grasslands



Washington D.C. -- The U.S. Forest Service recently released Tribal Connections a new [online interactive mapping tool](#) that shows how lands managed by the agency connect or overlap with current tribal trust lands and lands tribes exchanged with the federal government prior to 1900. This reference tool will help Forest Service employees and the public better understand historical treaties and the role they play in making current land management decisions.

“Our country has a deep yet sometimes forgotten connection to indigenous people and their lands, which all Americans now call home,” said Arthur “Butch” Blazer, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. “By showing historical and modern

connections to public lands in one place, we can all understand that land management decisions should take into account more than what meets the eye.”

Tribal Connections compiles information from hundreds of Smithsonian Institute maps and displays them in a single visual presentation. Forest Service mapping experts have used information by Smithsonian ethnographer Charles C. Royce published in 1899. At the time, Royce used the best tools and information available, but incorporated ethnographic descriptions that have been difficult to replicate with modern technology.

Tribal Connections contains multiple layers that include information on forests and grasslands managed by the agency, lands owned by tribes and historical data on lands ceded by treaties. Nearly 4,000 miles of shared boundaries between tribal lands and Forest Service-administered/owned land are identified.

Clicking on the map provides additional current and historical detail for each location. Tribal Connections uses the most current data available from Federal Census Bureau, Forest Service, Smithsonian and other sources. Having this information easily available in one online resource will improve the efficiency of agency-tribal coordination, collaboration and consultation.

Tribal Connections can serve as a helpful reference tool; however, it is not a legally binding map nor a source for legal descriptions. The Forest Service will use the map to help improve decision-making on incident and resource management and to honor and strengthen treaty rights and the federal trust responsibility. It will also help identify opportunities for new and expanded partnerships between tribes and the agency.

“Tribes are an integral part of our American story, leaders in our natural resource heritage and the original stewards of the lands we hold dear,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “Tribal Connections helps improve agency collaboration with Tribes and allow for new opportunities by visually depicting just how much of our natural and cultural resource interests overlap and meet geographically. Approximately 52 million acres of land are held in trust by the U.S. for various Indian tribes and individuals. The largest is the 16 million-acre Navajo Nation Reservation in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Much of the lands managed by the Forest Service and other federal agencies were ceded to the United States by tribes. Although they no longer reside on these lands, many tribes retain rights and interests in national forests and grasslands by treaty.

The Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations worked with the agency’s Geospatial Service and Technology Center to develop the map. The map includes information from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Smithsonian Institution, with input from other federal agencies, intertribal organizations and individual tribal members.

The Tribal Connections viewer is available online through the Forest Service Geodata Clearinghouse, the online collection of digital data related to forest resources.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands managed by the Forest Service contribute more than \$13 billion to the national economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency also has a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., including 100 million acres of urban forests where most Americans live.

Email: [pressoffice@fs.fed.us](mailto:pressoffice@fs.fed.us), Contact Phone: (202) 205-1134, Twitter Address: @forestsERVICE



## Nez Perce elder Horace P. "'isluumc" Axtell dies at age 90



Photo by Steve Hanks, Lewiston Morning Tribune

Horace P. "'isluumc" Axtell peacefully crossed over to 'eey'snin weetes (Happy Land) on Monday, September 7, 2015. He was 90 years old. He was born on November 7, 1924, in Ferdinand, ID, to Nellie Moody and William Whitman Axtell. He was descended from both the Chief Joseph band and White Bird band. Horace devoted his life to his family and reached so many people throughout the whole world. He was a devoted husband, loving father, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather and leader. He raised his children, many nieces and nephews, and grandchildren at his family home that he purchased with his wife and the help of his dad in 1964. He worked for Potlatch Forests Inc. from 1951 to his retirement in 1986. Horace demonstrated and proved to be a hard-working man, highly devoted to his wife and family, devoted to the Walasat religion, and he was very proud to be Niimiipuu.

Horace had been a devoted spiritual leader of the Niimiipuu Longhouse located in Spalding since 1978. He was a traditional hunter and fisherman, and a gatherer along with his wife, children, and grandchildren. In 1977, Horace was asked by (then) elders to revive the walasat spirituality. Knowing little of the traditional spirituality, he humbly accepted the role and diligently sought more guidance and learning. As a leader of the longhouse, he always remained humble and sought out more learning of the old spirituality, walasat, seeking out Umatilla, Colville, Yakama, Warm Springs, and Cayuse Walasat/Washat leaders. He always said "you are always learning until the day you die." With his teachings he mentored young Nez Percés/Niimiipuu. He considered the longhouse his home. He would say, "kiye pi'amkcix nuunim hete'ew kine (we gather our love here)." He would get there hours early, making sure that everyone felt welcome, and was always the last to leave, making sure everything was tidy and clean. The new longhouse was his "dream." He devoted a huge chunk of his life seeking donations to build a new longhouse. Sadly, that dream never happened, but striving for a new longhouse will continue with the longhouse family that he leaves behind.

In 1943, during World War II, he left high school in the 11th grade and was admitted to the 529th Engineers, Light Pontoon Company, Floating Bridge Builders. His company was one of the first to see the devastation in Japan after the bombs were dropped. After the war ended, he married Andrea (Wilson), and they added two children to their six children from previous relationships. His family became the strong base from which he found his personal success. His war stories were re-told over and over to his children and grandchildren and will forever be in our memories.

In late 1977, Horace and several veterans were instrumental in showing the importance and historical significance of the Bear Paw Battlefield to the Nez Perce people and the country. These veterans would continue to honor the anniversary of the battles every summer from Idaho to Montana and Canada.

Horace was a "leader on the powwow dance floor." He would load up the children and grandchildren in his family van and take off to powwows throughout the United States and Canada. He gained long-lasting friendships on these powwow journeys.

Throughout retirement, Horace became more involved in Native issues and programs. In 1980, Horace protested alongside many people for Native treaty rights during the Rapid River standoff. "I tried to get arrested, but they didn't take me," he joked. He was asked to join the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), and AISES became another branch of family. He sponsored grandchildren to lifetime Sequoyah Fellowships. He became a part of the AISES Council of Elders, the Earth Ambassadors Council of Elders, and the Four Worlds Development Project Council of Elders.

He accepted an invitation from Lewis-Clark State College in the late 1980s to help teach the first Nez Perce language class. He continued to teach for up to 10 years. He also worked for the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) from 1989 to 1993. Horace also had many short stories and essays. In 1997, his memoir, "A Little Bit of Wisdom: Conversations With a Nez Perce Elder," was published by Confluence Press.

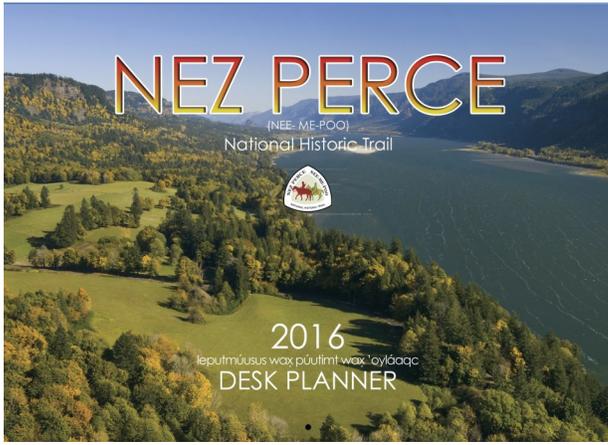
The rest of the world also wanted to hear what he had to say. His quotes, interviews, and photos can be found on hundreds of pages online and in many different languages. Horace continued to write and translate, including the oldest book in the Pacific Northwest, "Nez-Perces First Book: Designed for Children and New Beginners."

Horace traveled extensively, representing his family, longhouse, and tribe. From across America to Canada, Europe, and even during the 1993 presidential inauguration parade, he was honored by generations of people.

Horace was awarded the University of Idaho President's Medallion, and honorary doctorates from the University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College. The Washington State Historical Society honored him with a Peace and Friendship Award. The Idaho Humanities Council awarded him their Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities. National recognition of his work came in 2008, when the National Endowment for the Arts bestowed him with a National Heritage Fellowship. And in 2011, the National Indian Education Association voted him Elder of the Year. *(continued on page 5)*



## 2016 Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Desk Planners Coming Soon



The annual desk planner has been sent to the printer, and delivery is anticipated before the end of the year. Trail staff will begin distribution to partners and visitor centers along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) as soon as they arrive.

This year's version of the popular planner depicts a number of waterways associated with the events of 1877. It also includes information about the importance of water in the Niimiipuu culture.

The public domain photographs were collected by NPNHT staff and other federal partners.

Special thanks to Jason Blake of Above and Beyond/USDA Forest Service for layout and design, Angel Sobotta of the Nez Perce Language Program who provided Nez Perce names for inclusion in the Planner, and to Catherine Arthur-Bigman, Mary Hawkins, Juliana Luke, Shoshoni Walker, and Deidre Ellsworth for providing dates for events throughout the year. Also thank you to Wilfred

“Scotty” Scott from the Nez Perce Tribe who provided information on the annual commemorations.

We hope everyone will enjoy this year's Desk Planner.

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

### **Axtell cont.**

Once in a while, when he had some quiet time, he listened to big band musicians like Benny Goodman and watched his favorite sports teams. And even in those peaceful moments, Horace showed everyone the gift and power of how our lives can impact those around us.

He is survived by his wife, Andrea; his sisters, Myra Rosales, Jackie Wapato, and Lydia Arneecheer; children Charles "Chuckie" William Axtell, Purnell G. Axtell, Harlene "Kay" Seven, Jean Bohnee (Boot Arthur), Elizabeth Bohnee, Brenda Axtell, Steve Axtell (Gabrielle), Etta Lorraine Axtell, and Margo Aragon Herrington (John); many, many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; many adopted children; and all his friends and family that he inspired.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, "pee weyah ta ma lilpt" (Jane Moody); his mother, Nellie Moody Eneas; his grand-aunt, "taklahtsonmy" (Maggie Wilkensen); and aunt Annie Moody; his father, William Whitman Axtell; his brother, Olsen Reuben; his sisters, Betsy RedBear and Rebecca Bending; his daughter, Nellie Axtell; his great-grandson, Ambrose Smartlowit; and great-granddaughters Nevelle James and Nellie Jayne Ancheta.

A traditional walasat service took place at 6 p.m. on September 9, at the Niimiipuu Longhouse in Spalding. Burial occurred at dawn the next day.

### **Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Educational Trunks Available through New Partner**

For many years the staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) have been offering an education trunk for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Until recently the management of these trunks were overseen by the U.S. Forest Service enterprise team Recreation Solutions. We would like to thank Barbie Coldwell and her staff for their excellent management of these trunks for the past several years.

The staff of the NPNHT is pleased to announce that starting last month the NPNHT educational trunks are now available through a new partnership with the Montana Natural History Center based in Missoula, MT.

There is no rental fee for this trunk. The trunk is available for one, two, or three weeks. The borrowing institution is responsible for return shipping charges or for picking up and dropping off the trunk if it is not being shipped.

The educational trunks are designed for use by 4th and 5th grade.

For additional information please visit:

[www.montanaturalist.org/teacher-resources/traveling-trunks/](http://www.montanaturalist.org/teacher-resources/traveling-trunks/)

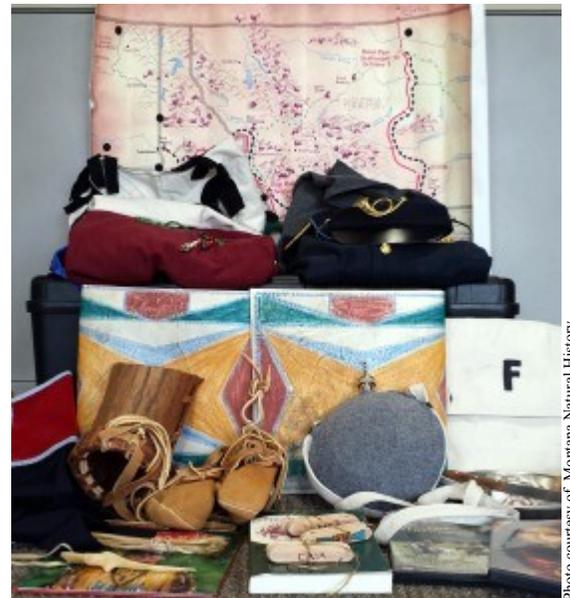


Photo courtesy of, Montana Natural History



## The Niimiipuu and Lakota Connection

History has told us why the Nez Perce patriots left the hills and rivers of Idaho to make a journey to Buffalo Country in 1877. It has been told of the great meeting in Weippe that the decision was to travel to Crow Country because they owed the Niimiipuu a favor. History also speaks of the wish of Chief White Bird and his argument to travel straight to Canada to meet with Chief Sitting Bull of the Hunkpapa Lakota. But it was Chief Looking Glass who won the day with convincing the leadership that Crow Country would be their destination. And it was tragic that the Crow did not assist their Niimiipuu friends, and instead fought the Niimiipuu at Canyon Creek. Then it was decided that Chief White Bird was correct and the Niimiipuu traveled onward to Canada to meet with Chief Sitting Bull.

On October 30, 1877, Colonel Nelson Miles made his surprise attack on the Nez Perce patriots at Snake Creek near the Bears Paw Mountains. During the initial attack, many Nez Perce men, women, and children were caught in the melee of stampeding horses. Many were driven on towards Canada, and many were lost and never seen again. By the time that Chief Joseph gave his rifle to General Oliver O. Howard and Col. Miles, there were only two Chiefs left, that being Chief White Bird and Chief Joseph. Chief White Bird opted not to surrender to the soldiers; rather he decided to make run to Canada. It was said that approximately 300 Niimiipuu men, women and children made it to Chief Sitting Bull's camp in the Cypress Hills. It was a dangerous trek for these refugees. The Assiniboine people killed many and made captives of the women and children.

When the Niimiipuu refugees made it to the Lakota camp, Chief Sitting Bull wept on seeing the condition of these Niimiipuu people. He had his warriors ready to make an attack on Howard and Miles, but it was one Red Coat that stopped them. Sitting Bull then assigned each Niimiipuu family to a Lakota lodge and family. They nurtured the Niimiipuu people and saved them from the extreme cold and death. That winter of 1877, three babies were born to the Niimiipuu people. They were taken care of and loved. It was the Lakota people that saved the Niimiipuu from certain death. It was the Lakota that saved these families.

In July, 2014, many Niimiipuu traveled to the Little Eagle Pow Wow on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. The Niimiipuu had gifts of blankets, cornhusk bags, and beadwork that they wanted to hand out to the descendants of these Lakota people that saved Niimiipuu families. The Lakota people led these Niimiipuu families to the grounds where they would do a "Making of Relatives" ceremony for the Niimiipuu people. It was emotional and beautiful to witness this ceremony. They referred to the Niimiipuu now as "Niimiipuu Oyate," which mean Nez Perce people and family.



L-R: Bonnie Ewing and Darlene Situran

On June 20, 2015, many Lakota people traveled to the Chief Joseph and Warriors Pow Wow and Memorial to visit with their new relatives. The Niimiipuu Veteran group held a pipe ceremony at the Northern Idaho Indian Agency Parade Grounds located near U.S. Highway 95 in Lapwai, ID, to make them Niimiipuu relatives. It was touching to witness this event. The Niimiipuu people said thank you to the descendants of the Lakota people that saved their ancestors.

The McFarland-Yearout family honored the Lakota people with an empty saddle ceremony for their grandfather Wottolen who was in the 1877 Conflict and later went to Chief Sitting Bull's Camp in Canada. Larry Greene led the horse ceremony and Michael McFarland and Abe Yearout presented Dana Yellow Fat, a descendent of Chief Sitting Bull, with a blanket. Bonnie Ewing and Abe Yearout also honored the Lakota with an empty saddle and she presented a blanket to Darlene Situran, Lakota elder. The Pow Wow Committee sponsored a luncheon. On Saturday evening at the Chief Joseph and Warriors Memorial Pow Wow held in Lapwai, ID, the Redheart Band gave a bustle to one of the visiting Lakota.

Many gifts were given to the visiting Lakota by local families.

This relationship will continue on with future generations of Niimiipuu and Lakota families. We are now "One People."

W. Otis Halfmoon, retired, National Park Service and Sandra Broncheau-McFarland



Larry Greene

Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, U.S. Forest Service Photo



# Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Partner Profile

## Meet Christopher O'Neal

My name is Christopher O'Neal and I am a Recreation Technician with the Lolo National Forest, Missoula Ranger District. The title of my position is Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Ranger. I am a Naval veteran from Havre, MT. I was on active duty for four years aboard the USS Alaska as an Advanced Sonarman. I then spent five years as a Seabee Utilitiesman, mostly training and doing volunteer work throughout Montana. After active duty, I attended the University of Montana on the GI Bill. In 2005, I received a B.A. in Environmental Studies. In the Spring of 2014, I also received a CAD Certificate from the Missoula College. I have a wife and two children and we live in Lolo, MT. Since 2009, I have been working with the Forest Service, first, on the trails crew and then as lead on the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program of 2010 after which I began working as the NPNHT Ranger.

When not working I enjoy live music, fishing and hunting, and gardening/landscaping. I also spend plenty of time with my two girls, biking and swimming.

### What's your first memory related to the NPNHT?

My first memory of the Trail was while on a fieldtrip in Elementary School in the mid-eighties. We visited the Bears Paw battlefield just outside of Chinook, MT, and learned about the events leading up to and beyond the battle.

### What types of projects have you been involved with along the NPNHT in the time that you have worked on the trail?

My first work on the NPNHT was while in Montana Conservation Corps, back in June of 2005. Our crew worked with the National Park Service at the Big Hole National Battlefield. We skinned lodgepoles and erected teepees at the site of the Nez Perce camp along the stream. We also thinned lodgepole away from the old growth Douglas Fir growing on the mountain side.

Since working with the Lolo National Forest as NPNHT Ranger, I have helped to coordinate and rebuild the entrenchment at Ft. Fizzle, renovated an interpretive sign, coordinated the removal of a bridge, and worked to place stones for crossing the West Fork Lolo creek. I have also completed many trail improvement projects such as tread-work, weed removal, building cairns, and placard and sign work.

### What is your favorite spot along the NPNHT?

My favorite spot along the NPNHT has to be the Howard Creek picnic area. It's a great cool place to rest and also a good junction with information involving the trail and two trailheads, one in either direction.

### How else could the visitor experience along the NPNHT be enhanced?

I think that a good opportunity for enhancing the visitor experience on the NPNHT is at the Wagon Mountain trailhead at Lee Creek camp ground. There is an information board there that has no information or maps concerning the Nez Perce or the NPNHT. The Wagon Mountain trail needs to be logged out before visitors will enjoy using it. Once on that trail, it's only about 2 miles to the NPNHT. At that junction there also needs to be a sign indicating trail numbers; otherwise people would become lost. I believe that more visitors would enjoy hiking and learning of the NPNHT from that camp ground if only there were more to inform and guide them. This year alone I've encountered several people hiking in the area, but none have been on the NPNHT. One group was discouraged and lost on the Wagon Mountain Trail, so they turned around. Others hike up the road or on the interpretive trail loop. Aside from camping opportunity at the trailhead, there is also a great day use area with a picnic table, restroom; and parking.



Christopher recently working on the reconstruction of the interpretive entrenchment at Ft. Fizzle, near Lolo, MT.

## UPCOMING Events:



November 2015 — Native American Heritage Month

November 13, 2015 — Young Nations Pow Wow, Lapwai, ID

December 5, 2015 — Annual Bead Bazaar, Nez Perce National Historical Park, Spalding, ID, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. PST

January-March, 2016 — Winter Storyteller Series at [Travelers Rest State Park](#)

February 6-11, 2016 — [Hike the Hill](#): Trails Advocacy Week, Washington DC



## NPNHT Traveling Displays Viewed by Thousands in 2015



Photo courtesy of the National Oregon/California Trail Center

The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Traveling Displays spent many months on the road during 2015. The current displays depict various aspects of the Nez Perce Flight of 1877 and the time that the people spent in exile.

The traveling displays began the year with a three month showing at the Appaloosa Museum and Heritage Center in Moscow, ID.

In May, one set of the displays (we have two sets) was on display during the ceremonies celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Nez Perce National Historical Park. It later spent time on display at the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests North Fork Ranger Station in Orofino, ID, and the Bureau of Land Management's Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center in Fort Benton, MT.

On Memorial Day the other set began a four month showing at the National Oregon/California Trail Center located in Montpelier, ID. Along with materials from one of the NPNHT's education trunks the display was

combined with the Idaho Historical Society's Territorial Idaho exhibit and was well received and enjoyed by people of all ages. Young school children who had studied Idaho History in 4th grade loved the educational trunk artifacts, and many adults enjoyed the NPNHT free standing exhibits. The exhibit was visited by more than 48,000 visitors who came to the Center (*photos left and right*).

If you have a facility that would like to host these exhibits we can provide additional information. Please contact Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT at (406) 329-3540 or [rmpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmpeterson@fs.fed.us)



Photo courtesy of the National Oregon/California Trail Center

Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist, NPNHT

### Be Safe in Your Travels

The Staff of the NPNHT want your experience along the Trail this Fall to be a safe one.

Please take a few minutes to review the Trail's Safety and Ethics Website before you begin your journey:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/npnht/ethics>

Also check weather reports and call ahead for road conditions at 511.

There are links to a number of [webcams](#) from the NPNHT website.

The NPNHT Auto Tour Route includes a variety of road surfaces (paved, gravel, and dirt). Please be sure to consult a map before embarking on your NPNHT trip.

*Many locations along all Auto Tour routes may not have cell phone coverage.*

**Remember to: Pay attention to wildlife awareness signs along roadways and always drive the posted speed limit.**



## Summer Trail Rides, Ceremonies, Presentations and Camping

This summer, the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club (NPpHC) had three major activities along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) beginning with the annual Chief Joseph Appaloosa Trail Ride in July, which covered about 100 miles of the Trail from Ryegate to Roy, MT (Musselshell Crossing, Big Snowy and Judith Mountains). Club members who participated were Angel, Payton and Glory Sobotta; Olivia Carter-Herrera; Rielly and Kendall Leighton - all from Lapwai, ID; and Kim Rumpsa, Wrangler, of Ware, MO. In 2016, the ride will end at the Bear's Paw Battlefield, thus completing the fourth 13-year round of the entire Trail (totaling about 1,300 miles). These rides started in 1965.



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

The second part of the summer trilogy was the dedication/ceremony for three miles of trail tread that the NPpHC recently reopened from Moon Saddle to Indian Post Office on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. A ceremony was held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the site of the Indian Post Office rock cairn to dedicate the trail as well as the U.S. Forest Service's interpretive sign, which quotes Nez Perce historian Sam Lott (Many Wounds): *"Trail so old it used from time of creation by Nez Perce people to go to Montana to hunt Buffalo....and in time of war with other tribes of Indians.....this is very place Indian come to send message - to do Indian worship in Indian custom and make powerful medicine for Indian...."* Elder Mylie Lawyer: *"It's like walking on sacred ground,"* and NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland: *"Tribal members are still using the trail as they did for thousands of years and generations.....hunting, fishing, picking berries, and gathering plants for food and medicine."* The program was to begin when the riders, most

dressed in traditional regalia who rode the three miles (Jon, Rosa, Jack, Abe and Titus Yearout; Glory Sobotta; Mitaat Taylor; Chloe Thompson; Carla Timentwa; Abby Whitman; Nakia Williamson-Cloud; Dion Smith; Melvin "Crow" Williamson; Leroy Williams; Gene and Mollie Eastman, made a grand entry from the trail head into the ceremony site. However, they were delayed due, in part, to an encounter with wasps whose nest was concealed on the trail. Although a few of the horses were stung, no one was injured from this unpleasant, but not unusual, experience when one is trail riding. In the meantime, Emmitt Taylor, Jr., who was serving as master of ceremonies, not knowing when the riders would arrive, kept the crowd occupied. Besides 40+ NPpHC members and program participants, many people from nearby communities heard about the event and made the long trip up the mountain for the luncheon at Howard's Camp and the dedication/ceremony.

When the riders finally arrived (*photo above*) at the site and encircled the waiting group, they were accompanied with an honor song by the Wap'qaqan drummers. A red Pendleton blanket was tied to an empty saddle to honor all of those who traveled along the K'usey'ne 'Iskit (bison hunt trail) long before it was known as the Lewis & Clark Trail, Lolo Trail, or NPNHT. President Abe Yearout presented the blanket from the NPpHC to Grace Timentwa Moore, who came all the way from Nespelem to attend the event (*photo right*). Her brother, Bill Timentwa, also from Nespelem, officially opened the program with a prayer and led a traditional song. This was especially moving when one gazed over the beautiful scene overlooking the vast expanse of green trees below extending to the east toward the Bitterroot Mountains and to the south to the sacred mountains Pilot Knob and the Gospels.



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

Mike McFarland, the namesake of Many Wounds, exhorted the youth to remember the importance of their history and this area; he then presented a gift of appreciation on behalf of his family to Leroy Williams for his longtime service to the Club, especially for the youth. Others speakers included Sam Penney, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC) member, Forest Supervisor Cheryl Probert, and Trail Administrator Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, who introduced the large contingent of USFS employees present, and Karen Heagen, Executive Secretary of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation. The featured speaker, Nakia Williamson-Cloud, Director of the Nez Perce Tribe's Cultural Resources program, spoke on a wide range of Nez Perce history, including the significance and spiritual meaning of this and other sacred sites along the Trail to the Niimiipuu, in the past and the present. The program concluded with a prayer by Rosa Yearout, Secretary NPpHC. (*continued on page 10*)





Grace Sobotta at the Big Hole Battle Memorial

After camping overnight at nearby Howard's Camp, Club members and the horses traveled by trailer over Lolo Pass to the Placer Creek Campground on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest near the Big Hole Battlefield. Nimiipuu call the area 'ickum'seléelixpe (place of the buffalo calf in Salish place). On Saturday, members rode three miles to take part in the Tribe's annual memorial at the battlefield. Those who paraded in traditional regalia were Jack, Abe, and Titus Yearout; Mitaat Taylor; Chloe Thompson; and Angel, Glory, and Faith Sobotta. After the ceremony, members did a presentation at the Visitors' Center about the NPapHC and the Appaloosa horse. Angel Sobotta concluded the presentation by mentioning the Club's emphasis on promoting respect for all spiritual traditions and ongoing healing by leading a translated Niimiipuu hymn and prayer. The weary travelers then headed home to Idaho, concluding a packed but successful five days on the Trail. Those youth not in the parades but who did a lot of riding and helped care for the horses were Grace and JC Sobotta; Ahlius, Taya, Abreann and Tathen Yearout; Karissa McFarland; Madison and Brenden Brown; and Davie Jo and Dawson Whitman. Jackie

Taylor was the head cook and her helpers were Emmitt Taylor, Brittney Yearout, and Jonelle Whitman.

The NPapHC received partial funding for expenses for these summer events from the Nez Perce Tribal Enterprise, a Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) Agreement with the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, a grant from the Potlatch Fund in Seattle, an honorarium from the Nez Perce National Park at Big Hole, and many in-kind contributions in man-hours, horses, vehicles and equipment from the NPapHC members and numerous generous donors. Yox Kalo! (That's the end!)

Rosa Yearout, NPapHC Secretary

For more information, contact NPapHC officers: President-Abe Yearout (208) 843-2579 or email abey@nppmetalart.com; Vice-President-Jon Yearout; Secretary-Rosa Yearout (208) 843-2452 or email rosamy@nezpercesystems.com; Treasurer-Leroy Williams; Head Wrangler-Emmitt Taylor, Jr.; Youth Coordinator-Olivia Carter; Youth Representatives-Annella Tucker & Chloe Thompson; Cultural Coordinator Angel Sobotta, and Fundraising-Loretta Sobotta.

## Nez Perce Trail Subject of Award Winning Essay

Mykel Johnson, Nez Perce, of Lapwai, Idaho was one of five first place winners of the 2015 Young Native Writers Essay Contest. The contest which was open to Native American high school students enrolled in grades 9-12, had over 100 submissions. This year's essay theme was to —Select an image from your individual tribe and write about how it represents your people. — Miss Johnson's chose the Nez Perce Trail as her image and her winning essay can be viewed on the Holland and Knight Law Firm [website](#).

Miss Johnson was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship which was sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), National Indian Education Association and the Holland and Knight Law Firm. Johnson represented the Nez Perce Nation on an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. for Scholar's Week from July 20-24, 2015, which included sight-seeing, spending time at the many prominent sites including the National Museum of the American Indian, networking with Native American professionals, state representatives, and learning about future internships as well as working with Ojibwa author, Brenda J. Child. The students built great memories and learned much about each other as well as being hosted by the generosity of the —locals' in D.C.

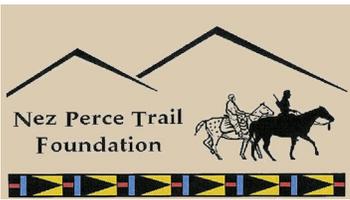
The winners were a diverse group from a variety of tribes and are pictured here at the award ceremony with NMAI Director, Kevin Grover. (Left to Right) A'ali'ikumakani Dukelow, -Native Hawaiian, Amy Igri Lowndes, -(Inupiat), Kevin Grover, Mykel Johnson-Nez Perce, and Sage Storm Harvey,-Navajo Nation. (Essay Winner, not pictured, Amelia Kennedy Thomas-Seneca). Miss Johnson is currently attending Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.

From the Lapwai, Idaho Middle/High School Newsletter



Miss Johnson pictured in the front row, third from the left, in white.

# News From the Nez Perce Trail Foundation



With the end of summer, it might be a good time to begin planning for 2016. As we look back, the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) has experienced a tremendous amount of success relative to our re-organization efforts. The summer activities of the Nez Perce Trail Foundation were highlighted by way of this year's Summer Educational Trail Tour, organized and conducted by Duane Heglie and Karen Heagen, Secretary. The program is funded by a Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) with the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic

Trail (NPNHT) Administration. The Tour began at Wallowa, Oregon, during the Tamkaliks Celebration and concluded at the Big Hole National Battlefield. This year's event was one of the best organized Teacher Tour events ever and interest in joining the Tour for next year, which will begin at Big Hole, has already claimed several reservations. The financial status of the NPTF is strong and we are wrapping up our outstanding payables which have decreased dramatically.

Temperatures were blissfully mild during the weekend of July 17-19, 2015, for the Tamkaliks Pow Wow this year (*photo right*). Members of the Wallowa Band "Women of the Warriors" finally received their recognition as being part of the Nez Perce War of 1877. The brave women who can trace their lineage to the war were honored. The NPTF donated red tote bags that were used as gift holders for salmon, beadwork, medicine, and special symbolic articles. Unknown to many, one third of the ninety-three Nez Perce killed in the war were women and children. At Big Hole alone, ten women and twenty-one children lost their lives. Those who did survive were most likely taken as prisoners of war to Kansas, and then were relocated to "Indian Territory," now known as Oklahoma.



Photos Courtesy of Karen Heagen, NPTF



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

When Karen and Kathryn Wapato (*photo right*) requested to join us on the NPTF 2015 Annual Summer Educational Trail Tour, we were thrilled. These daughters of the late Ruth Wapato brought a spirituality and depth that Duane Heglie and Karen Heagen had never experienced before. We will be forever grateful to these ladies. Karen and Kathryn began their pilgrimage here by praying for Ruth under the old tree at the top of "Tick Hill," on the Tamkaliks Pow Wow grounds. For the next week, these sisters hiked the White Bird Battlefield and Lolo Pass,

finding themselves walking in the footsteps of their ancestors, Wottolen and Blackeagle.



L-R: Karen Wapato, Duane Heglie, Kathryn (Kat) Wapato

In early August Karen Heagen, along with her mother and NPTF member Ms. Dorothy, represented the NPTF at the dedication of the newly reopened 2.2-mile portion of the Ne Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) at the Indian Post Office in central Idaho (*photo left*).

From June 27 to July 2, 2015, Charlie and Margaret Moses Jr., NPTF board of directors (BOD) members, attended the National Scenic and Historic Trails conference at Franklin, TN, June 27 to July 2, 2015. A CCSA between the NPNHT Administration and the NPTF supported them to attend the conference. Highlighting the conference was a talk by Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service (NPS). Jarvis spoke of the need for change to better inform the public on what the NPS is or does. He also spoke of the change in the demographics and the need to make NPS sites accessible to all nationalities and income levels. We also need to concentrate on getting more youth out ON the NPNHT. Several National Scenic and Historic Trails have signs that say "Trail Town" to indicate that the town recognizes that the trail goes nearby and that their community supports their trail. We need to identify and recognize towns along our own NPNHT that will preserve, protect, commemorate, and support the Trail.

Remember to "Like" the [NPTF on Facebook](#).

Jim Zimmerman, President, NPTF, Karen Heagen Secretary, NPTF, and Charlie Moses Jr. (BOD) member NPTF





# News From the National Park Service: Nez Perce National Historical Park

## Nuunimníx, Our Very Own

As part of the year-long celebration, marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Nez Perce National Historical Park the Park reached out to Nez Perce artists to celebrate Nez Percés and Nez Perce descendants who make traditional items for family, friends, and loved ones. The Nuunimníx exhibition continues at Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) Center for Arts and History in Lewiston, ID, through December 21, 2015.

Stop just admiring all the beautiful weaving and beading. Classes are now being offered in conjunction with our 50th Anniversary art show, Nuunimníx. Sign up for one of our upcoming Nuunimníx workshops! Artists and storytellers from around the Northwest will teach you their traditional art and techniques that you can see featured in the Nuunimníx exhibit currently at the LCSC Center for Arts and History.

Sign up for one of these wonderful classes by calling

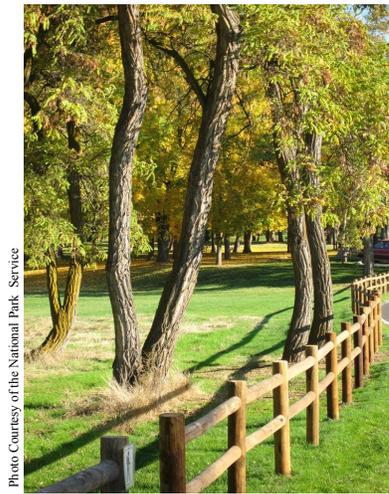


Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

Fall colors at the Nez Perce National Historic Park grounds in Spalding, ID.

the Center for Arts at History at 208-792-2243 or visiting <https://lsc.augusoft.net/>.

The Annual Beadwork Bazaar will be held at the Spalding Visitor Center on December 5, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many local artists will have artwork, craft items and food available for sale.

On Saturday November 21, at 1 p.m.. PST, a special presentation at the Park in Spalding will center on the Nez Perce veteran commemorations, it will be presented by Wilford "Scotty" Scott.

Vivian Wilson Park Ranger, and Beth Erdey, Park Archivist Nez Perce National Historical Park



*The Staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) would like to acknowledge Mary Lou Tiede, Branch Manager with the Discover Your Northwest sales association at Nez Perce NHP for her service. Mary Lou, who recently retired, has been a key partner to the NPNHT since its early years. She started working at Nez Perce National Historical Park in March of 1991 mere months after the dedication of the NPNHT. She continued to provide visitors with new sales items, including jewelry direct from local tribal members, new books, and a series of author lectures. Thanks for your years of service, Mary Lou, and best wishes!*

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Nuunimníx Exhibit Programming - Artisan demonstrations, workshops and presentations:**

- Thursday, October 29, 5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Cornhusk Bags by Jenny Williams of Lapwai  
\$20 - Register in Advance
- Tuesday November 3 & Wednesday November 4, 5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Beading by Allen Pinkham Jr of Redmond WA  
\$30 for both days - Register in Advance
- Thursday, November 5, 5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Drum Making by Allen Pinkham Jr of Redmond WA  
\$45 (includes drum making kit - limited spaces available) Register in Advance
- Thursday, November 12, 5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Tule Mats by Marjorie Waheneka of Pendleton OR  
\$20 - Register in Advance
- Thursday, December 3, 5:00 pm reception | 5:30 pm program FREE  
Nez Perce Sustenance – a talk by Alan Marshall
- Thursday, December 10, 5:00 pm reception | 5:30 pm program FREE  
Storytelling – a Nez Perce Tradition  
Angel Sobotta and Harold Crook

Call LCSC Center for Arts & History to register for the workshops: 208.792.2243

In partnership through:

And grant funding from:  
**US Bancorp**

Image Courtesy of the National Park Service





# News From the National Park Service: Big Hole National Battlefield

The past several months have been very busy times for the Big Hole National Battlefield. The following is a list of projects which staff diligently worked on during the summer 2015.

Park staff and our tribal partners are currently working on the new brochure for the Big Hole National Battlefield. Park staff is also in the process of creating a new trail guide. Rock number markers that coincide with the new trail guide have been purchased and Park staff is looking forward to installation.

Park staff, with the assistance of Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crews, recently completed several much needed maintenance projects at the Park. A boarder using 200 10' X 6" diameter poles has been installed along the Siege Trail to provide a distinct trail for visitor use (*photo right*). Three benches were placed along the Howitzer trail. A bench has also been installed at the end of the Overlook spur trail. Erosion damage along the Siege and Howitzer trails has been repaired. Encroaching vegetation on the historic landscape has been removed.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

A native plant landscape has been created at the Visitor Center along with accessible interpretive trails. Park staff is in the planning stage for interpretive signage along the Visitor Center trails. Bicycle racks have been installed at the Visitor Center along with two new benches for the many cross country bicyclists who stop at the Park.

Park Interpretive staff provided daily tours of the battlefield and deck talks at the Visitor Center throughout the summer.



Photo Courtesy of the National Park Service

The Big Hole National Battlefield also offered the weekend Summer Speaker Series again this year. The Summer Speaker Series involves several very knowledgeable presenters every weekend from July-August. Park staff looks forward to continuing the speaker series during the summer of 2016. (*photo left, Leroy Seth presents*).

The Big Hole National Battlefield was honored to help facilitate the 138<sup>th</sup> annual commemoration on August 8<sup>th</sup>. National Park Service employees from Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield were able to attend the Commemoration ceremony at the Bear Paw Battlefield on October 3rd.

Big Hole National Battlefield is also looking forward to new leadership with the hiring of the new Montana Unit Manager.

The hiring process has begun to fill the vacant Park Ranger position at Bear Paw Battlefield.

On Sunday, November 8, 2015, the Big Hole National Battlefield began its winter schedule. The visitor center is open and free to the public seven days a week from 10 a.m. to p.m. It contains exhibits, an introductory video, and a book sales area.

The Battlefield will be closed November 11, 2015, November 26, 2015, December 25, 2015, January 1, 2016, January 18, 2016, and February 12, 2016, for the Federal Holidays.

Trails are currently open but may close unexpectedly depending on weather conditions. Please contact the Battlefield (406) 689-3155 for updates on trail conditions.

Jimmer Stevenson, Acting Montana Unit Manager, Nez Perce National Historical Park





## News From the Forest Service: Lolo National Forest

Approximately 15.5 miles of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) is located within the Lolo Creek U.S. Highway 12 drainage managed by the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The NPNHT on the Lolo National Forest is divided into seven distinct management areas between Graves Creek and the Montana/Idaho border. During the 2015 field season (April thru September), the NPNHT Ranger maintained the NPNHT, the NPNHT Hwy 12 interpretive corridor, the facilities that directly support the use of the NPNHT (historic sites, campgrounds, picnic areas), and also provided interpretive information about the trail to the public. The NPNHT Ranger monitored the trail for new weed invaders, as well as removed (pulled) weeds from trail access points. Maintenance was provided on 69 NPNHT markers and travel management signs. This included replacing a number of markers.

With the assistance of the Missoula Ranger Districts' trail crew, 15.5 miles of the NPNHT was cleared of downfall and brush. No motorized trespass was observed.



Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service Photo

The NPNHT Ranger made contact with numerous local, regional, national, and even a few international visitors throughout the course of the summer season. The Ranger discussed the Trail's significance and history, and recommended hikes along different segments of the Trail. The NPNHT Ranger found that many Forest visitors at the developed recreation sites were unaware of the presence of the Trail, its history, or the recreational and interpretive opportunities provided by the U.S. Forest Service and its partners. During these encounters, the Ranger frequently provided multiple Nez Perce and Lolo Trail brochures and directed visitors to the U.S. Hwy 12 Interpretive corridor.

The purpose of the 2015 NPNHT noxious and invasive weed species project was to treat weed infestations along the 15.5 miles of NPNHT located on the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. Weed treatments were prioritized and based off of a 2012 NPNHT funded weed inventory and subsequent weed treatments and informal monitoring conducted in 2013 and

2014. The most heavily infested segments of the trail and trailheads were treated with herbicide, hand pulling, and/or mechanically treated in order to preserve the trail's natural state, and historic condition, and to reduce the future spread of invasive species.

Sampling of the work accomplished by the staff this past year follows.

A couple of bridges were repaired and reconstructed. The handrail on the footbridge crossing a small creek near the Montana/Idaho border had collapsed and needed to be re-attached. The footbridge that crossed the West Fork of Lolo Creek, near Highway 12, had been destroyed by ice jam debris moving downstream in the winter of 2014. The NPNHT Ranger coordinated and implemented both repair projects with assistance from the Missoula Ranger District's trail crew.

Missoula Ranger District Recreation Management Staff, the Forest Archeologist, and the NPNHT Ranger coordinated the rebuilding of the Fort Fizzle replica entrenchment with assistance by personnel from the Missoula Ranger District Fire Crew, a Forest Service fire crew from Utah, and the staff from the Lolo Pass Visitor Center and Powell Ranger Districts of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. More than 14 people helped with the project (*photo above*).

The trailhead located at the west trailhead of the NPNHT section from National Forest Road 2180 west to Forest Road 43432, was ill-defined and difficult to navigate due to soil sloughing. Hikers had created several small trails to access the NPNHT from the trailhead parking resulting in resource damage and loss of the defined trail corridor. Approximately 100 feet of trail tread was repaired by the NPNHT Ranger using hand tools, creating a defined and easy to navigate trail (*photo right*).

Another project included the repair of a portion of the NPNHT tread, located west of Grave Creek, that was obliterated by a mud slide in the winter/spring of 2014. Approximately 40 feet of trail tread was repaired along a steep open section of trail.

It is important to note that one of the Lolo Pass Visitor Center's seasonal employees, Avery Old Coyote, developed interpretive programs to enhance public knowledge and understanding of the Nez Perce among other tribes. This was funded through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the NPNHT Administration.

Two campgrounds, three picnic areas, and one historic site that directly support the use of the NPNHT are located along the Lolo Creek / U.S. Highway 12 corridor. Lolo Creek and Lee Creek Campgrounds and picnic areas provide camping and picnicking opportunities to the public who are interested in experiencing the trail and Nez Perce history. The Lolo Trail at Howard Creek Recreation Site also provides picnicking, interpretive panels, and brochures, as well as two access points to the trail. The Fort Fizzle Historic Site provides interpretive panels, brochures, and a replica entrenchment that highlights the role the site played during the 1877 Flight of the Nez Perce.



U.S. Forest Service Photo

Al Hilshey, Acting Natural Resource Specialist, Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest





## News From the Forest Service: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest—Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The Lolo Pass Visitor Center switched to winter hours on October 4. The visitor center will be open Thursday through Monday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Pacific Standard Time.

With the changing of the season, Lolo Pass Visitor Center said goodbye to some of our seasonal interpreters. We would like to thank Avery Old Coyote for the time and effort he put into his Lolo Trail interpretive talks. He reached out to more than 60 people and talked about the elaborate history of the Lolo Trail. He had the difficult task of balancing the beautiful stories and the tragic history of the American native people who call this place home.

We would like to also thank Andrew Cembalisty (Montana Conservation Corps) and Christien Clark (Discover your Northwest) for all the hard work they did implementing their interpretive programs. Andrew created and facilitated more than eight natural history programs at the Powell and Wilderness Gateway campgrounds.

If you stopped by the visitor center this summer, you may have met Christien. He was our visitor center extrovert who seemed to make friends with visitors every day. He told the story of Lewis and Clark and the Niimiipuu daily and gave interpretive programs to more than 75 people. Hundreds of people stop by and use the facilities at Lolo Pass. With the help of our interpreters these people left with more than warm coffee and a better understanding and a connection to the history of the Lolo Trail.

Continuing one of the longest outdoor education programs in western Montana, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Lolo Elementary stopped by to visit Lolo Pass Visitor Center. More than 70 kids, teachers, and chaperons came to learn about the natural history of the Lolo Pass area. The group was split up to visit five stations. Children learned how to throw an Atlatl, took a medicinal plant hike with a ranger, heard about the Corp of Discovery's ill fated trip across the Lolo trail and how history would have been different without of the help of the Niimiipuu people. Even Smokey Bear and the Powell Ranger District's Wildland Fire Crew stopped by to talk about the Niimiipuu historic relation to wildland fire and how forest fires benefit us today.

This summer the Lolo Pass Visitor Center is happy to announce we purchased a traditional Nez Perce style tipi. The tipi will be used as a venue for future interpretive programs at the Visitor Center and Powell Campgrounds.

Buffie Cerutti, Manager  
Lolo Pass Visitor Center  
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



Fire engine operator Aaron Bruning and Smokey Bear teach the Lolo Elementary school 5th graders about fire ecology.



## News From the Forest Service: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Annual trail maintenance was performed via a Participating Agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe. The tribal trail crew worked an 18-mile section from the trailhead at Musselshell Meadows to the 500 Road and Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic (NPNHT) one mile east of Beaver Dam Saddle.

Because of a mild winter in 2014-15 there were fewer wind felled trees to clear and this work was complete by the end of July. Trees that could not be easily stepped over were removed and the cut ends were “naturalized” by whittling with the chainsaw tip and bar (*photo right*). The cut sections of the wind felled trees were rolled out of sight of the trail. Waterbars and drainage dips were dug out to specification.

Deferred maintenance: A local contractor brushed out seven miles of the NPNHT between Lolo Forks and Camp Martin in June and July. After brush, which had been cut, was dragged out of sight, and stumps were cut sub-surface or “naturalized” with a chainsaw tip to appear beaver chewed. *Continued page 16*



## News From the Forest Service: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Firewood cutting activity restoration: In July the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew from Kooskia, ID, helped cut up and disperse remnants and debris left over from firewood cutting activity accomplished in 2014 along an old skid road and a section of trail. For three days the YCC crew helped naturalize stumps and cut ends, and installed drainage structures, restriction signs, and natural traffic barriers along the old skid roads. They also installed missing restriction and guide signs (*photo right*).



U.S. Forest Service Photo



U.S. Forest Service Photo

Fire damage recovery: About 3.5 miles of the NPNHT were burnt over during the 2015 fire season, between Lolo Forks and Beaver Dam Saddle (*photo left*). Fire crews cleared the trail in October and removed hazard trees that had been partially burnt through. Naturalization, sign replacement, and drainage structure replacement will be done in 2016.

Twenty Three Volunteers from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Idaho Chapter also spent five days

working along the Trail in July (*photo right*).



Photo courtesy of Idaho Chapter LCTH

Tim Lewis, Trail Technician



## News From the Forest Service: Bitterroot National Forest

During the summer of 2015 the Bitterroot National Forest Trails Program maintained the full length (3.1 miles) of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic (NPNHT) that is located on the Forest. During this maintenance 63 down trees were cleared,

several hundred feet of brush was cut back, and multiple trail markers were installed (*photo right*).

Also during this period the Bitterroot National Forest Range Program applied herbicide on 11 acres adjacent to the NPNHT from the lower Trailhead. Spotted knapweed and oxeye daisy were the focus of the treatment (*photo below*).



U.S. Forest Service Photo



U.S. Forest Service Photo

Debra Gale, Program Manager Wilderness, Trails, Outfitter and Guides, Wild and Scenic Rivers





# News From the Forest Service: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

With funding from Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) administration and the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, trail and site maintenance were expanded to include the NPNHT (#1727), Indian Grove Village Trail and Interpretive Site, and Buckhorn Ridge trails-Corral Creek (#1698) and Tulley Creek (#1724).



U.S. Forest Service Photo



U.S. Forest Service Photo

Work on the NPNHT (#1727) included installation of additional trail markers above Lonesome Saddle, re-establishing tread and trail prisms at trail junctions, and completing annual maintenance on 3.6 miles of trails (*photo above*).

At the Indian Village Grove Trail and Interpretive Site, work was accomplished re-establishing 0.3 miles of trail tread, brushing and cut grass along trail clearing zones, installation of rock cairns at trail junctions, and completing annual maintenance on 0.3 miles of trail (*photo left*).

On the Corral Creek Trail #1698 work was accomplished setting new rock cairns, and new NPNHT trail markers in grassy meadows, re-establishing trail tread, completing heavy brushing along trail in clearing zones, improving a streambed crossing, and annual maintenance on 4.8 miles of trail (logged out in July and September).

For the Tully Creek Trail #1724 crews re-set trail markers and constructed new rock cairns, re-established main trail tread in braided areas used by livestock,

completed heavy brushing along trail in clearing zones, and completed annual maintenance on 4.0 miles of trail

The first of the new NPNHT Standard Signs was also installed at Dug Bar (*photo right*).

Curtis Booher, National Resource Specialist Recreation, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Eagle Cap Ranger District



Tony King U.S. Forest Service Photo



## New Faces Along the Trail:

### Regional Forester Named for Northern Region



Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced earlier this year that Leanne Marten has been selected as the Regional Forester for the Northern Region.

As Regional Forester, Marten will have the responsibility for managing National Forest System lands across 25 million acres spread over five states, including 12 National Forests located within the perimeter of northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, and Montana; and the National Grasslands in North Dakota and northwestern South Dakota.

“We are pleased Leanne has accepted this leadership opportunity within the Northern Region,” said Tidwell. “Her experiences living, going to school, and working for the Agency in the Northern Region give her valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of the region. They will also help her forge strong relationships with communities and partners to build on the Region’s collaborative efforts to restore and sustain healthy, productive natural resources.”

“It is an honor and privilege to be selected as Regional Forester for the Northern Region. I am very happy and excited to be returning and look forward to the opportunity to serve the wonderful people and employees in the region as we work together to care for and manage our natural resources,” she said.

Marten’s previous position was National Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination for the U.S. Forest Service. She has worked for the Forest Service for more than 20 years, including assignments in the Northern Region. Leanne started her career as a seasonal employee on the Palouse Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest in Northern Idaho while obtaining her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science from Washington State University. She went on to graduate school at the University of Idaho, where she received her Masters of Science in Forest Resources.

After finishing up her schooling, Marten worked full time for the Forest Service on the Canoe Gulch Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest in Montana. She later worked as a planner and environmental coordinator for the Kootenai prior to moving east to be a District Ranger on the Ottawa National Forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Deputy Forest Supervisor and Forest Supervisor on the Huron-Manistee National Forest in the lower peninsula of Michigan, and Forest Supervisor on the Allegheny National Forest in Northwest Pennsylvania.

Most recently, Marten served as the National Director for Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers in Washington, D.C. She has also had many temporary assignments throughout her career, including a detail as Deputy Regional Forester of the Southwestern Region, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Associate Deputy Chief for National Forest Systems, Washington, D.C.; and most recently, Acting Director for the National Partnership Office, Washington, D.C.

Marten grew up in the Forest Service and is a second-generation employee. This combined with two decades of service, give her extensive background into the Agency, its mission of caring for the land, its programs and its people.

Marten is married and has two sons, one in the U.S. Marine Corps, stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and the other who recently started college at the University of Idaho.

Marten replaces Faye Krueger, who retired from the Forest Service in January.



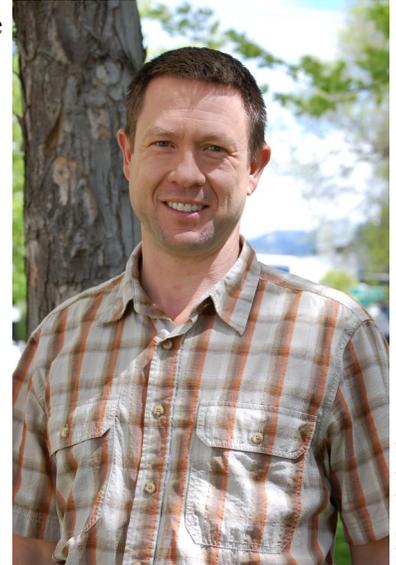
## Chad Benson Named Deputy Forest Supervisor, Custer Gallatin National Forest

The Custer Gallatin National Forest announced this spring that Chad Benson will be joining the Forest as Deputy Forest Supervisor in May. Benson, a Montana native, was born and raised in Plains, MT, earning a bachelor's of science in engineering from Montana Tech. He launched his career as a project manager in Salt Lake City, UT, where he managed a variety of diverse projects, as the city prepared for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Benson worked as a Civil Engineer for both the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests from 2002 to 2006 and as a District Ranger on the Powell Ranger District on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in Idaho until the fall of 2009, when he moved to the Lolo National Forest as the Ninemile District Ranger. In 2014 Benson served as the Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and later filled in for Legislative Affairs in the Regional Office in Missoula, MT.

“I am excited for the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The Forest offers a wide variety of opportunities and projects to be a part of,” said Chad Benson. “Being able to help manage our diverse public land from Bozeman to the Dakotas and facilitating work that keeps our National Forests viable for future generations is an honor and privilege.”

Benson and his wife enjoy spending time with their two young sons, riding horses, hiking, and fishing. “Chad brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in working with people with diverse backgrounds and interests,” said Mary Erickson, Forest Supervisor Custer Gallatin National Forest. “We are excited to have him on board and looping him into the diversity of projects we have across this landscape, including the Forest Plan Revision that will start in 2016.”



U.S. Forest Service Photo

## Best Wishes to Jason Blake, NPNHT Graphic Designer



Anyone who has visited the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) in the past decade has likely had their visit enhanced through the work of a very talented individual.

If you have traveled the NPNHT using any of the following items; the overall “general” brochures for the NPNHT, the [Auto Tour Route guides](#) or a visitor “tearsheet.” If one of the NPNHT Desk Planners has helped you track your time, while learning more about the Trail; then you have been exposed to the talents of Jason Blake.

Jason started working with a Forest Service Enterprise Team in 2006. During the next decade he transitioned between several teams but the high quality of the products he helped produce never changed. The NPNHT has been extremely fortunate to be able to continue to work with Jason though these transitions.

Jason recently accepted a new position with the publications section of the Pacific Northwest Research Lab of the U.S. Forest Service in Portland, OR.

The staff of the NPNHT would like to thank Jason for all his time and dedication to the NPNHT and we wish him the best in all his future endeavors.



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## Fall Along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail



Bitterroot River along the Old Darby Road in Western Montana.

*Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo*



Wallowa River near Minam, OR.

*Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo*



Near Camas Meadows in Idaho.

*Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo*



Sunlight Creek bridge, Wyoming

Hwy 296. *Joni Packard, U.S. Forest Service photo*



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